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COVENANT

of the

Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization

Founding Assembly

February 11, 1991

Peace Palace

The Hague

COVENANT OF THE UNREPRESENTED NATIONS AND PEOPLES ORGANIZATION

PREAMBLE

Whereas all Nations and Peoples possess the right to self–determination; by virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;

Whereas many Nations and Peoples suffer under alien or colonial occupation or are otherwise denied the exercise of their right to self–determination;

Whereas the rights of individuals and the collective rights of peoples are inextricably linked;

Whereas the protection of the natural environment is similarly linked to the rights of Nations and Peoples to determine their own destiny;

Whereas many Nations and Peoples are victims of human rights abuses, discrimination, persecution, population transfers, forced assimilation, deprivation of land or other natural resources, and sometimes, genocide;

Whereas the unprovoked use of all forms of violence by States against Nations and Peoples is to be condemned;

Whereas the non–recognition of a majority of Nations and Peoples by intergovernmental organizations and the absence of meaningful venues for the expression and enforcement of their aspirations and rights often leads to the use of violence;

Whereas the ends sought by Nations and Peoples differ depending on their individual situation, history and goals, and

range from the recognition and protection of basic human rights, including cultural and religious rights, within existing States, to the recognition of their sovereignty or statehood on an equal basis with other States;

Whereas it is not the intention to create an alliance or common front of participating Nations and Peoples against established States or against any individual State or group of States;

Whereas an effort is needed to address effectively the legitimate issues raised by unrepresented Nations and Peoples in order to increase stability, and to promote peace based on genuine respect and understanding for one another and for each other's diversity.

Therefore, by the present Covenant, the Participating Nations and Peoples, represented by the undersigned Representatives, establish among themselves the UNREPRESENTED NATIONS AND PEOPLES ORGANIZATION (the "Organization").

TITLE I

General Provisions

Article 1

It shall be the aim of the Organization, by assisting Participating Nations and Peoples ("Participants") to express their positions, needs and grievances in legitimate forums and by providing a community of support, to advance the fulfillment of the aspirations of Participating Nations and Peoples by effective non–violent means.

Article 2

For the purposes set out in Article 1, the activities of the Organization shall include, but shall not be limited to:

(a) the facilitation of consultation, exchange of views and experiences, and cooperation with each other, to the extent desired by the Participants;

(b) assistance in effectively utilizing available procedures of United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and of other international and regional organizations;

(c) training in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, including United Nations diplomacy and the principles of international law;

(d) training in negotiation skills and professional assistance in conflict management and resolution;

(e) training in non–violent strategies and professional assistance in the development of strategic plans and policies;

(f) professional legal and public relations advice;

(g) providing an information service for the dissemination of information provided by Participants to the public and among

their own people;

(h) assistance in the development of democratic institutions and processes and in the monitoring of elections and referenda;

(i) assistance in the development and implementation of measures designed to protect the natural environment and the creation of sustainable development projects.

Article 3

(a) The achievement of the tasks entrusted to the Organization shall be ensured by:

– an Assembly

– a Steering Committee

– a Secretariat

Each of these institutions shall act within the limits of the powers conferred upon it in this Covenant.

(b) The institutions listed in Subsection (a) of this Article may be assisted by an Advisory Council, acting in a consultative capacity, and various specialized bodies such as a Legal Council, an Environmental Advisory Committee or an Agency for Conflict Management and Resolution acting under the direction of the Secretariat.

Article 4

Each Participant shall take general and specific measures which are appropriate to assist the Organization in achieving its aims and shall refrain from actions intended or reasonably expected to harm the Organization or impede its activities.

TITLE II

Provisions Governing Participation

Article 5

Participation is open to all Nations and Peoples who are inadequately represented at the United Nations and whose Representative Body, as defined in Article 6 of this Title, fulfills all requirements set out in this Title and declares:

(a) Belief in the equality of all Nations and Peoples and in their inalienable right to self–determination;

(b) Adherence to the internationally accepted human rights standards as laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

(c) Adherence to the principles of democratic pluralism and rejection of totalitarianism and any forms of religious intolerance;

(d) Rejection of terrorism as an instrument of policy;

(e) Respect for all peoples and population groups, including minority or majority populations within territories inhabited by the Participant but belonging to different ethnic, religious or linguistic groups.

Article 6

For the purposes of this Covenant:

(a) A Nation or People shall mean a group of human beings which possesses the will to be identified as a nation or people and to determine its common destiny as a nation or people, and is bound by a common heritage which can be historical, racial, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious or territorial. A section of a

People constituting a minority, living on a portion of its ancestral territory, incorporated into a State other than a State representing that People, is included in this Article's definition.

(b) Representative Body shall mean a government, legislative body, liberation movement or other organ of leadership, whether in the territory of the Nation or People or in exile, recognized as such by a substantial section of the people which the Representative Body claims to represent; a Representative Body can also mean a coordinating organization or other form of association of two or more organs of leadership of one Nation or People or an organization or association of two or more Nations and Peoples.

Article 7

A Nation or People, through its Representative Body, may apply to become a Participant in the Organization by submitting the following information to the Secretariat for consideration by the Steering Committee:

(a) A brief history of the Nation or People;

(b) The reasons for the desire to become a Participant in the Organization;

(c) Adequate evidence of the recognition of the Representative Body as an organ of leadership by the people it claims to represent;

(d) A formal declaration of adhesion to the present Covenant.

The Steering Committee, on recommendation of the General Secretary, will decide on all applications. The Assembly may overrule this decision by a vote of two–thirds majority.

Article 8

Participation in the Organization does not in any way imply agreement among Participating Nations and Peoples on each other's objectives, policies, or allegiances and does not require any form of cooperation or solidarity beyond what is contained in this Covenant.

Article 9

Participants favor the use of peaceful means to achieve their goals. Participants shall not use the Organization or any of its bodies, specialized agencies or services or its name, to promote the use of violence.

Title III

Provisions Governing Institutions

Section I:

The Assembly

Article 10

The Assembly, which shall be composed of delegations representing participating Nations and Peoples, shall exercise the powers of deliberation and control which are conferred upon it by this Covenant.

Article 11

Each delegation shall have the right to one vote in the Assembly.

Article 12

The Assembly shall hold regular sessions at least once every two years. The Assembly may meet in extraordinary sessions at the request of a majority of Participants or at the request of the Steering Committee. The Assembly shall elect its Chairperson at the beginning of every session. The Chairperson shall serve in that function until a successor is elected.

Article 13

The Assembly shall adopt the agenda at the start of each session on the basis of recommendations of the Steering Committee and the General Secretary.

Article 14

The Assembly shall act by a simple majority of votes of delegations present. The quorum shall be laid down in the rules of procedure.

Article 15

The Steering Committee or the General Secretary, may invite individuals, governmental or nongovernmental organizations or States to attend as Observers to the regular sessions of the Assembly, subject to the approval of the Assembly. The Assembly shall decide on the rights and duties of Observers by a simple majority.

Section II:

The Steering Committee

Article 16

The Steering Committee shall be composed of five to fifteen persons, each representing one Participant, who will serve for a term of three years.

Article 17

The Steering Committee shall meet at least twice a year. The Steering Committee shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

Article 18

The Steering Committee shall implement the overal policy of the Organization as determined by the Assembly. The Steering Committee shall possess all of the powers delegated to it by the Assembly.

Section III:

The Secretariat

Article 19

The Secretariat shall consist of a General Secretary and assistants appointed by him or her. Members of the Secretariat need not belong to a Nation or People represented in the Organization. The General Secretary shall serve as the executive director of the Organization, and shall be elected by the Assembly for a three–year, renewable term.

Article 20

The duties of the General Secretary shall include:

(a) to direct the day–to–day operations of the Organization;

(b) to represent the Organization;

(c) to establish and operate bank accounts for the benefit of the Organization;

(d) to maintain proper and regular books of accounts of all receipts and payments of the Organization, including the creation of an annual balance sheet;

(e) to present status reports annually to the Participants and to the Steering Committee. These reports shall include the following information: the names and addresses of representatives of Participants and of members of the Steering Committee, and a description of the overall financial situation of the Organization and a description of the activities of the Organization during the previous year, including any additions, changes or amendments to the Covenant;

(f) to coordinate the activities of Regional Chapters in order to better accomplish the aims and objectives of the Organization; and

(g) to perform any duties delegated or requested by the Assembly or Steering Committee.

Section IV:

Regional Chapters

Article 21

The Regional Chapters shall be established for the purpose of supporting the Organization in its activities, including the solicitation of funds. The statutes and bylaws of each of the Regional Chapters shall ensure that they shall exist for no other purpose, and shall expressly incorporate this Covenant by reference or otherwise.

TITLE IV

Financial Provisions

Article 22

Funding for the Organization shall come from Participants, and from international organizations, corporate or private contributions and fundraising activities.

TITLE V

Termination of Participation

Article 23

Participants may terminate their membership in the Organization if they desire upon sending formal notice to the

General Secretary. Termination shall be effective upon receipt of notice by the General Secretary.

Article 24

A Nation or People which becomes a member of the United Nations has the moral duty to remain a supporting member of the Organization and to take part in the work of the Assembly without a vote.

TITLE VI

Liquidation of the Organization

Article 25

The Organization shall cease to exist if

(a) Participants unanimously so decide; or

(b) In the event all Participants obtain independent representation at the United Nations.

TITLE VII

Amendments to the Covenant

Article 26

Amendments to this Covenant shall be approved by Three–fourths of the current Participants.

(Amended August, 1991)

STATEMENT OF

HIS SERENE HIGHNESS

PRINCE HANS-ADAM II VON UND ZU LIECHTENSTEIN

AT THE UNPO SPECIAL SESSION ON SELF-DETERMINATION

IN THE HAGUE

22 - 23 JANUARY 1993

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With great sympathy and admiration I follow the work of your organization. You represent the nations and peoples who have most often been denied the right of self-determination and have often suffered violations of the most basic human rights.

The Principality of Liechtenstein, although one of the smallest States Members of the United Nations, knows the value of self-determination. We think that the right of self-determination, which brought about the dissolution of the colonial empires, should be a right which is applied effectively in practice to all the peoples and nations of the world. Nearly all of you represent peoples and nations of much greater number than the 30'000 people living in my home country. Perhaps Liechtenstein has remained independent because we are so small and through most of our history have been a very poor country, of no strategic value. But of greater importance has been the fact that our two neighbours, Austria and Switzerland, have respected our right to self-determination and also cooperated with us, especially in the economic field.

I think, that Liechtenstein, because of its unusual history and situation, indeed, has not only the right but, the obligation to support the principle of self-determination in international organizations. No State in the world can suspect us of any motivations of power politics or feel threatened by our support for the principle of self-determination, since we are so small and powerless. This principle has been and will be the main protection for our independence, as Liechtenstein has no army with which to defend itself.

It is my personal feeling that most States Members of the United Nations will recognize that the time has come to make the right of self-determination into one which should be effectively applied worldwide. Our world is changing very rapidly and new developments are emerging which we have to cope with in a peaceful way; otherwise the most terrible wars might well shake our planet again.

The collapse of the Soviet Union was only a symptom of a historic trend which seems to have started with the breakup of the colonial empires a few decades ago. Those large centralized empires lost the competitive edge they enjoyed throughout the 19th century and well into the 20th. Worldwide economic integration through free trade and the free markets which opened up in many parts of the world deprived the large empires of their economic advantages. Those empires proved too small to compete in the world market and too large and bureaucratic to adapt to the new situation. Military power was not enough to hold them together.

If we examine the situation in the world today it seems that it is not only the large empires that are threatened by this historic trend but also the nation-State, shaped according to the ideas of the 19th century. Throughout human history we can follow historical trends which over certain periods of time have favoured large centralized States or empires. But during other periods small States or decentralized large States and empires have prevailed. Over the centuries military technology and economic factors have favoured the large States with strong central governments but several decades ago - bareley noticed by the public - this trend began to change. Whenever such trends have changed in the past, wars have increased both in number and in intensity: wars of aggression in one case, civil wars in the other. All our endeavours should now be aimed at coping peacefully with these changing trends in human history.

History has a tendency to repeat itself, but never in exactly the same way, and therefore it is important to note the differences. There is one big difference in the current trend towards smaller or more decentralized large States, as compared with similar trends in the past: Our world has become much smaller. Mainly through worldwide communication and transportation, we have recognized that many of our problems can only by solved through cooperation on a continental or worldwide basis. Whereas on one side we see colonial empires and States such as Yugoslavia falling apart, on the other side there is an integration process which has been going on since World War II, on an international and a regional level. The United Nations with all its specialized agencies plays an important role, but so do the European Community and other regional organizations.

The world is slowly moving away from the concept of the State as it was mainly created in the 19th century, and as it still to a large extent dominates international relations today. Allow me to illustrate this statement using the Principality of Liechtenstein as an example.

Liechtenstein has no national currency, no army, hardly any embassies abroad, no university, no national airline, or other traditional attributes of the nation-State. We have used the Swiss Franc as our currency for nearly 80 years, and before that the Austrian currency. But basically we could use any other fully convertible currency without too many problems. Membership in the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the EFTA and other organizations has transferred many of the rights and tasks of our State to international organizations.

In Western Europe most States have transferred important economic decisions from the national to the regional level. The different European courts on human rights and other areas have a substantial influence on the States Members.

Liechtenstein has for a long time cooperated very closely with both of its neighbours, Switzerland and Austria. This cooperation is no longer restricted to the traditional bilateral State level. The Liechtenstein Government cooperates directly with the local governments of the neighbouring Swiss Cantons and the Austrian Bundesland of Vorarlberg in such areas as education, health services and security. Liechtenstein consists of 11 communities and each enjoys a high degree of autonomy. The communities have started to cooperate directly with the neighbouring communities on the Swiss side, which enjoy a similar degree of autonomy, without any interference from the respective State governments.

Because the Principality of Liechtenstein is so small it never assumed the guise of the traditional State, with its strong national government. At times in our history this was a disadvantage. However, in our modern world this has turned out to be an advantage, because the traditional nation-State has proved to be either too small or too large to solve most of the problems of our time. Cooperation on a worldwide and regional level, decentralization down to the smallest community and much room for private initiative is necessary today if a nation wishes to prosper. This is one of the main reasons why the population of Liechtenstein, which possesses no natural resources itself, enjoys one of the highest per capita incomes in the world. Small nations without natural resources which follow this policy very often enjoy a higher standard of living than their much larger neighbours with abundant natural resources.

I am convinced that in the next century most States will have to evolve in that direction or they will disappear. Communities such as cities or villages will once again assume much greater importance, as was in fact the case before the emergence of the large, centralized nation-State with its strong central government. Private initiative and cooperation on a local, regional, state, continental and worldwide level will become even more important than it is today.

This development is one of the reasons why the community and its autonomy has received so much attention in our initiative for self-determination. We also hope through this approach to achieve a better solution to one problem usually associated with self-determination. Very often a certain area may be inhabited by a mixed population, from the point of view of ethnic, religious, or cultural background, as was the case in Yugoslavia. If the principle of self-determination is applied as it has been in the past, new States are created

along borders which were very often established in a rather arbitrary way. Inside these new States which are usually established according to the ideas of the 19th century, minorities exist once again whose right to self-determination is often disregarded. Political unrest, civil war or even "ethnic cleansing" may follow.

If in Yugoslavia the principle of self-determination had been applied at the community level and with more autonomy instead of full independence as the immediate goal, Yugoslavia would probably still exist and civil war would have been avoided. With the exception of Slovenia, all the new States which have emerged from the collapse of Yugoslavia have large minorities within their borders whose right to self-determination has not been respected. It is interesting to note that even the political leadership of Slovenia was willing to stay within Yugoslavia if their demands for autonomy had been met.

The right to self-determination is by its nature a right which can only be applied to a group, and not to an individual. This has been one of the main difficulties which made its realization so difficult. We in Liechtenstein feel that this right must be given to the smallest group which can exercise it with some success, and this group in our opinion is the community. A community is capable of governing itself and usually has a well-defined territory. A community may be a village, a city or perhaps also a tribe. In most cases a community will be too small to become fully independent, but as we have seen independence in our modern world has lost much of its importance and has become very relative, even for a superpower such as the United States of America.

Of course, the definition of the word community in a convention will be difficult. A community might also be divided, and its territory is not always so well defined. Nevertheless, in most States a community is better defined than a minority and has at least a minimum organizational structure to which some autonomy rights can be transferred. It might be politically easier for a State to grant a certain degree of autonomy to communities than to minorities.

The initiative of Liechtenstein stresses the importance of granting a certain degree of autonomy. Unfortunately, it is still unacceptable for most States Members of the United Nations to grant full independence to their minorities. It would be easier to grant a certain degree of autonomy which would at least be a step into the right direction. For many minorities the granting of autonomy might already solve most if not all their problems. Full independence without some experience of self-government and a basic organizational structure can bring a new State very rapidly into political and economical chaos.

We must be realistic in our approach, but I am optimistic that most States will one day accept a convention on self-determination without reservation. If we examine human history it seems that humanity does not have many alternatives. In the past and in the future new States have been and will be born; their borders change, they disappear. If we regard longer periods of time we see that States have life cycles similar to those of the human beings who created them. The life cycle of a State might last for many generations, but hardly any State Member of the United Nations has existed in its present borders for longer than ten generations. To attempt to freeze human evolution has in the past been a futile undertaking and has probably brought about more violence than if such a process had been controlled peacefully. Considering the advances in the field of technology, civil wars will become more and more destructive, not only for those directly involved but also for the neighbouring States and for our whole environment. The possible destruction of a large nuclear power plant in a civil war is a frightening example. Would it not be much safer to replace the power of weapons by the power of the vote, even if it means that new States may be born? A State is made by people and should serve the people, and not the other way around.

It will certainly take time and we will have to work hard on it. Liechtenstein has invited the States Members of the United Nations to send experts to a meeting on self-determination which will be held in Liechtenstein in two months' time. Your organization has also been invited to this conference, and I am looking forward to your contribution. You, the Unrepresented Peoples and Nations, should be the main beneficiaries of this initiative on self-determination. Together we have to convince the world that self-determination is not a threat but an opportunity for mankind.

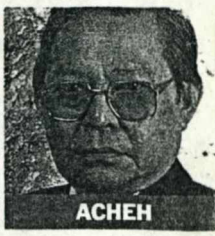
SIOUX

BURMA

BATWA

JURA

MAPUCHE


ACHEH

NATIONALISM

States of Mind

A worldwide organization "for small people" helps their struggle for human rights, self-determination and other dreams

By MARGOT HORNBLOWER THE HAGUE

THE PLAINT OF THE BATWA PYGMY, translated into Russian, resonated through the earphones of the foreign minister of the Sakha republic of Siberia. The Iraqi Assyrian compared his forgotten people with American Indians, as a Sioux from South Dakota and a Mohawk from Quebec applauded gravely. Two exiled princes—Tengku Hasan di Tiro of Acheh in Sumatra and Agofe John Bart Agami of Lado in Africa—chatted over cheese sandwiches. "We all have our own dreams," said Erkin Alptekin, an Uighur from East Turkestan. "And if we can share the same pillow, we can achieve our dreams."

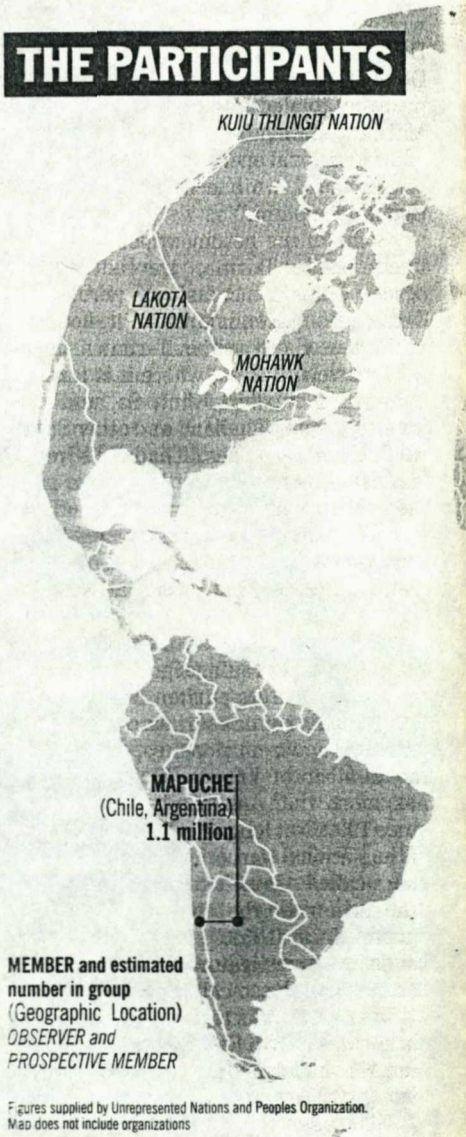
A kaleidoscopic cross section of the oppressed, the colonized, the neglected and the rebellious gathered in the Hague last week for the general assembly of the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization. With flag-bearing delegates from five continents, it had all the trappings of a mini–United Nations, despite one key difference: its 39 members, representing 130 million people, are mostly diplomatic outcasts, unwelcome in the international bodies where their fate is discussed. "There are some 5,000 distinct peoples in the world," said UNPO Secretary-General Michael van Walt. "But fewer than 200 states are recognized. Many groups want only basic human rights and their cultural identity. But others, perhaps 50, have the historical and political legitimacy to form new separate states."

The splintering of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia has roused the expectations of restive peoples around the world. Kurds from Iraq. Ogonis from Nigeria. Nagas from India. Frisians from Holland. Shan from Burma. Mapuches from Chile and Argentina. At last week's conference, they agreed on one goal: self-determination. "Indonesia is Yugoslavia a hundred times over," claimed Di Tiro. The Achenese fought a long war against Dutch colonizers, only to be handed over in 1949 to the new Republic of Indonesia. The Javanese-dominated archipelago is battling uprisings in Acheh, East Timor and West Papua. "More than 200,000 of our people have been massacred since Indonesia invaded us in 1975," said an East Timor delegate. "But the world is changing. The Soviet empire has crumbled. We too can be free."

UNPO grew out of the unlikely friendship of a Tibetan, an Estonian and a Dutchman. On a visit to the Soviet Union in 1989, Lodi Gyari, foreign minister of the Tibetan exile government, looked up a fellow Buddhist, Far Eastern history professor Linnart Mäll. Their two peoples had something in common: neither could argue their case before the U.N., which deals only through member nations or nongovernmental organizations. "Nobody stood for our interests," said Mäll, now vice president of the Estonian National Independence Party. He and Gyari resolved to form an organization "to work for small peoples." They called on Van Walt, the son of Dutch diplomats, who had become a Washington lawyer and general counsel to the Dalai Lama. Representing Tibet's case before the U.N. Human Rights Commission, Van Walt had been besieged with requests for help from members of other nationalities. "The frustration was high," he said. "When people cannot be heard, it leads to violence."

In the two years since it began, four founding UNPO members have gained independence: Estonia, Armenia, Georgia and Latvia. Now several are embroiled in controversy over the treatment of their own minorities. At the conference, Estonia was criticized for refusing citizenship to its Russian inhabitants. Georgia was censured for repressing the Abkhazians, who asked for self-government in 1990. "In an act of genocide," Abkhaz National Theater director Valeri Kove told the assembly, "the Georgian army is trying to annihilate the people of Abkhazia. We cannot accept losing our motherland."

THE PARTICIPANTS



Figures supplied by Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization. Map does not include organizations

ERIC BRISSAUD—GAMMA LIAISON FOR TIME

UNPO has led fact-finding missions to Abkhazia, Kosovo, Kurdistan, Tatarstan and Chechnya in an effort to mediate conflicts, monitor elections and draw attention to human-rights abuses. "The first step is to listen to people's feelings—not just to list statistics," said Van Walt. "But UNPO also aims to provide services." Last week delegates attended workshops on diplomacy skills, conflict resolution and media relations.

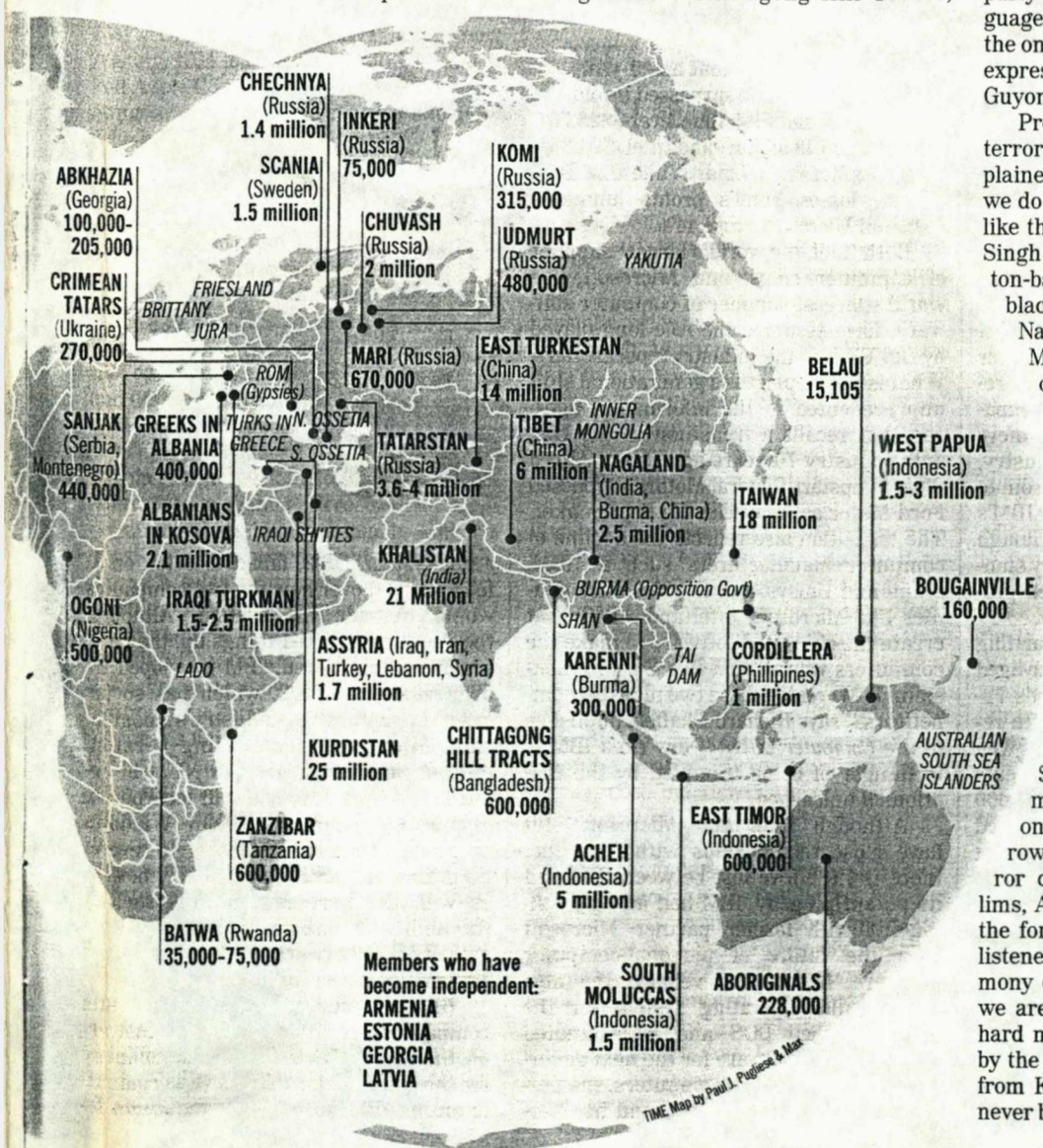
"How do you deal with hostile journalists?" wondered a Scanian, whose group, from southern Sweden, seeks more cultural autonomy; a Tibetan counseled him to establish regular contact with a limited number of reporters. Many representatives of the would-be nations complained that their conflicts are rarely covered. "Reports in the media are few and far between," said Mike Foster, a spokesman for the island of Bougainville, which has been under siege by the Papua New Guinea army for three years. "Our cries must be heard."

The most frequent complaint of conference participants focused on the use of population transfers as a weapon against self-determination. Thus a representative of the Mari said Russians are being encouraged to move into their territory. Likewise, Menelaos Tselios, representing Greeks in Albania, claimed: "The Albanian government is intimidating, assimilating and forcing population transfer on the Greek minority." Similar complaints came from Bangladesh's Chittagong Hill Tracts, where indigenous peoples are being forced into "cluster villages" to make room for Bengali settlers. Tatars, forcibly transferred to East Asia from their Black Sea homeland by Stalin, have moved back and built homes and mosques only to have them razed by the resident Russians and Ukranians. "We do not ask for independence," said Ilknur Baysu, a Crimean Tatar attorney. "Only for basic human rights."

Thirty new peoples have applied for UNPO membership. To join, they must show they are representative. Two separatists from the Jura region of Switzerland did not qualify: their group has only 50 members. Another applicant, the Union Démocratique Bretonne, a minority party that promotes Breton, the Celtic language of Brittany, had high hopes. "UNPO is the only global organization where we can express ourselves," said delegate Kristian Guyonvare'h.

Prospective members must disavow terrorism. Two Sikhs from Punjab complained their application was delayed. "If we do not have a place in an organization like this, where will we go?" said Gurmit Singh Aulakh, president of the Washington-based Council of Khalistan. Three black American groups—Nigritia, the National People's Democratic Uhuru Movement and the Lost-Found Nation of Islam—came as observers. "There's a struggle all over the world for identity," said Jerry Carroll, a onetime Los Angeles blues singer and president of the Nigritian Commission. Also seeking a platform, a group of Bosnian Gypsies showed up to get help in fighting a Dutch deportation order.

UNPO's sudden popularity could lead to growing pains. With a largely volunteer staff, its funds come from U.S. and European foundations, as well as from a $1,000 annual fee charged each member. Mostly, though, it survives on determination. After giving a harrowing description of the Serbian terror campaign against his fellow Muslims, Alija Mahmutovic, a physician from the former Yugoslav territory of Sanjak, listened with furrowed brow to the testimony of his fellow delegates. "I realized we are not the only ones to go through hard moments," he said. "I was touched by the Indians from America, by the men from Khalistan. And," he smiled, "I had never before heard of Scania!" ■



UNPO members (January 1993)

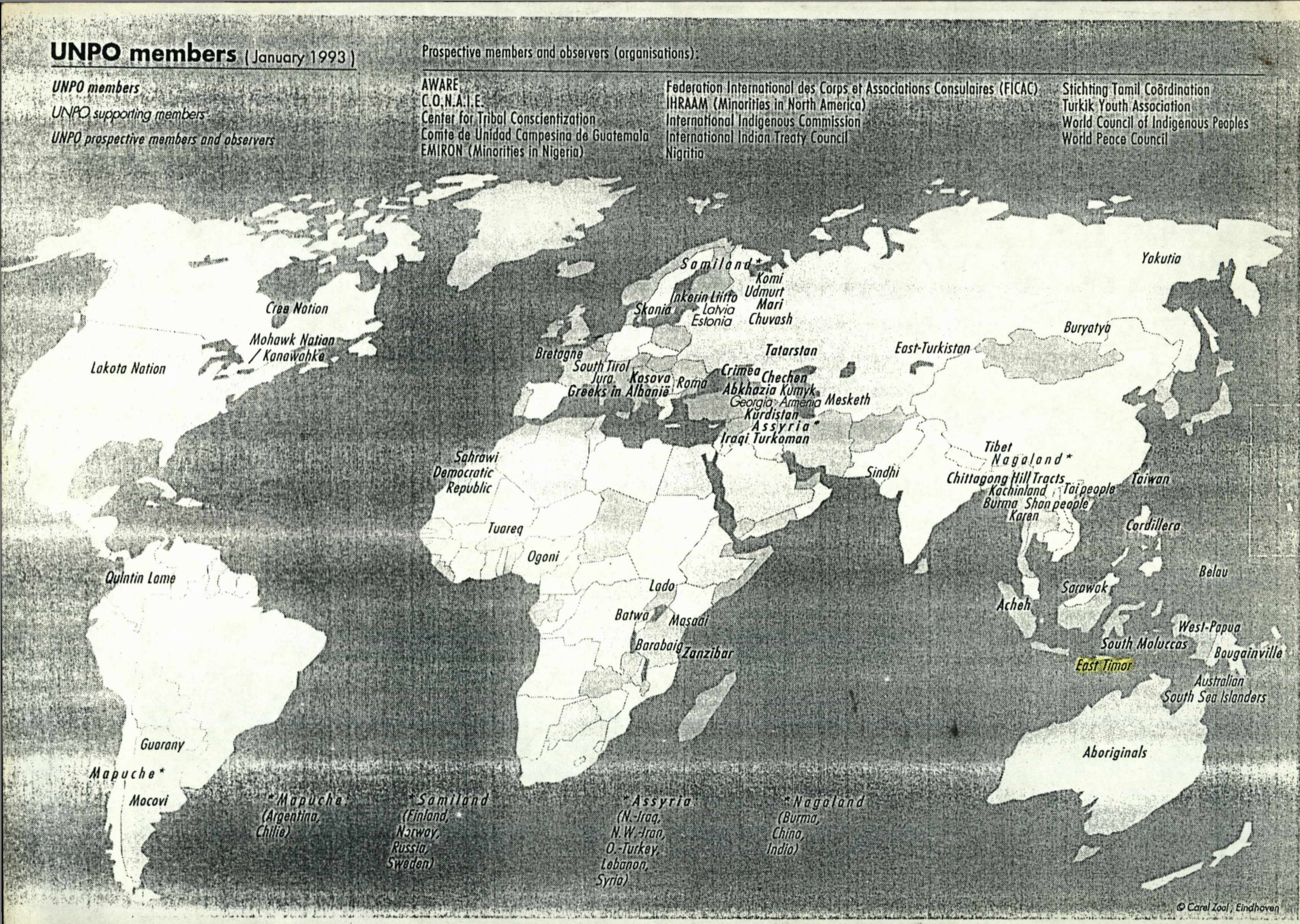
UNPO members

UNPO supporting members

UNPO prospective members and observers

Prospective members and observers (organisations):

AWARE
C.O.N.A.I.E.
Center for Tribal Conscientization
Comte de Unidad Campesina de Guatemala
EMIRON (Minorities in Nigeria)
Federation International des Corps et Associations Consulaires (FICAC)
IHRAAM (Minorities in North America)
International Indigenous Commission
International Indian Treaty Council
Nigritia
Stichting Tamil Coördination
Turkik Youth Association
World Council of Indigenous Peoples
World Peace Council



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UNPO

Unrepresented
Nations and Peoples
Organization

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Phone Numbers;

UNPO office.....3603318
Javastraat 40a
Hotel Bel Air.....3502021
Johan de Wittlaan 30
Provinciehuis.....3116611
Koningskade 1
Cab (taxi).....3906262

Airport (general information).....020-6010966

International directory information.....06-0418

Train station.....06-8991121

2. Hotel room costs in Bel Air do not include:

phonecalls
restaurant cost (except breakfast)
mini-bar
video
and other incidental expenses

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU PAY FOR ALL THESE INCIDENTAL EXPENSES WHEN YOU CHECK OUT THE HOTEL

3. The bus will depart each morning at:
09.00am
09.15am
09.30am

If you have any questions or problems the UNPO-staff will always be at your service.

WE HOPE YOU HAVE A PLEASANT STAY IN THE HAGUE AND A SUCCESFULL CONGRESS !!!

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY
Javastraat 40 A
2585 AP The Hague
The Netherlands

Tel (070) 360 33 18
Fax (070) 360 33 46

SAN FRANCISCO COORDINATION OFFICE
347 Dolores Street, Suite 206
San Francisco, California
94110 USA

Tel (415) 626 - 0995
Fax (415) 626 - 0865

TARTU COORDINATION OFFICE
Rackoja Platz 8
202400, Tartu
Estonia

Tel (01434) 3 39 44

3rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
19 JANUARY TILL 24 JANUARY

Monday 18:	Delegations arrive Welcome registration/distribution of Assembly

Tuesday 19:	**Opening General Assembly**
9.30am	Plenary (open to Press, Diplomatic Corps, NGO's, public) Opening by Chairperson Reports of Steering Committee and General Secretary Adoption of the Agenda
11.00am	Press briefing / Break
11.30am	Election of Chairperson
11.45am	Situation Reports and Introduction of Members/Observers
1.00pm	Lunch
2.30pm	Plenary Situation Reports and Introduction of Members/Observers
5.00pm	Closing

Wednesday 20:	**General Assembly**
9.30am	Plenary
11.00am	Press briefing / Break
11.30am	General Assembly continues
1.00pm	Lunch
2.30pm	General Assembly Plenary Continues
5.00pm	Closing

Thursday 21:	**Workshops**
9.30am	Plenary
10.00am	Starting Workshops
12.00pm	Workshops, including: – Non–violence – Conflict resolution – Women's leadership – Press relations – Diplomacy training
1.00pm	Lunch
2.30pm	Workshops continue
5.00pm	Closing and tea

The workshops will be closed to the press, except on invitation.

Friday 22:	**Special Session on Self Determination**
9.30am	Plenary Special Session on Self–Determination
11.00am	Press briefing / Break
11.30am	Special Session Continues
1.00pm	Lunch
2.30pm	Special Session Continues
5.00pm	Closing
8.15pm	Cultural evening: Dance, Music and Theatre Performances open to Public ("Houtrust Rotonde" in Den Haag)

Saturday 23:	**Special Session on Self Determination**
9.30am	Plenary Special Session
11.00am	Press briefing / Break
11.30am	Special Session Continues
1.00pm	Lunch
2.30pm	Special Session Continues
5.00pm	Closing

Sunday 24:	**General Assembly**
9.30am	Plenary Rounding off Adoption of resolution
11.00am	Break
11.30am	Plenary Continues
1.00pm	Lunch
2.30pm	**Press conference**
3.00pm	Plenary continues
5.00pm	Closing

During conference hours you can contact us in the Provinciehuis;
Phone 09. 33. 70. 311. 6043, and in the general secretariat in The Hague.
phone 09. 33. 70. 360. 3318

DIPLOMACY TRAINING PROGRAM

INTERNATIONAL LAW OF HUMAN RIGHTS

SPECIALIST TREATY REGIMES

	Instrument	Agency
International Bill of Human Rights	Universal Declaration of Human Rights	n/a
	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Committee on ECS Rights
	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	Human Rights Committee
	First Optional Protocol (individual petition)	
	Second Optional Protocol (death penalty)	
	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide	
	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	CERD
	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women	CEDAW
	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	Committee against Torture
	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Committee on the Rights of the Child

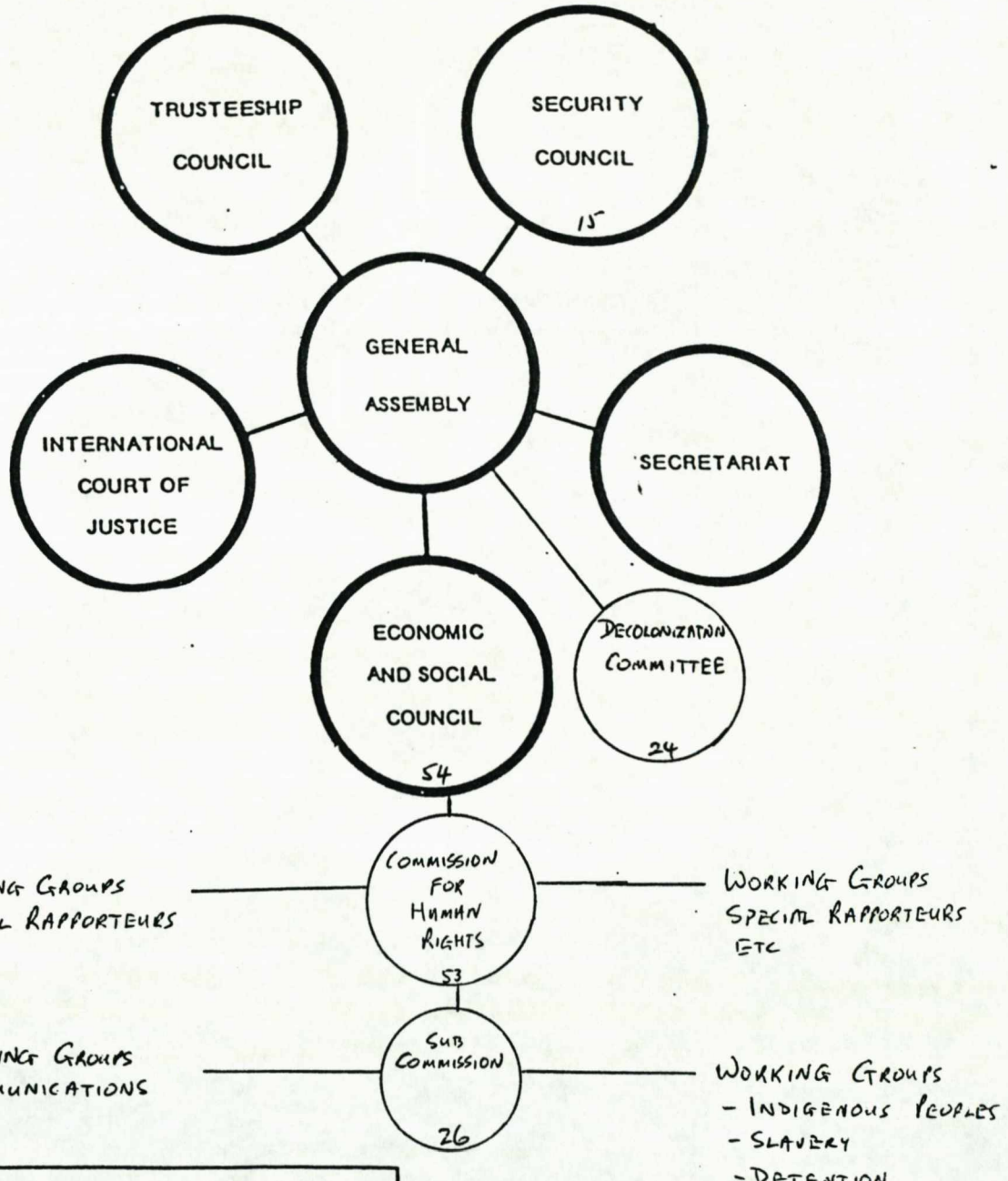
etc

NB. Treaties bind only those States that ratify them. And ratifications may be subject to reservations.

Implementation Procedures
Periodic Reports
State v State complaints
Individual Petition

THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

PRINCIPAL HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES UNDER THE CHARTER



- ○ Principal organs of the United Nations
- ● Other United Nations organs
- ○ Specialised agencies and other autonomous organisations within the system.

COMMUNICATIONS

ECOSOC RES. 1235 – public procedure

ECOSOC RES. 1503 – confidential procedure

DELEGATIONS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES MEMBERS

* Abkhazia
Government of Abkhazia
Mr G. Gumba
Mr V. Kove
Mr F. Kapba
Mr S. Kotsba

* Aboriginals (Australia)
Committee to Defend Black Rights
Coalition of Aboriginal Organizations
Ms H. Corbett
Mr T. Widder

* Acheh
Acheh/Sumatra National Liberation
Front (A.S.N.L.F.)
Tengku Hasan M. de Tiro (President)
Mr S. Rauf

* Assyria
Assyrian Universal Alliance
Senator J. Nimrod
Mr S. Celik

* Bougainville
Provisional Government of Bougainville
Mr M. Forster

* The Chechen Republic
Government of Chechnya
Mr J. Dudaev (President)
Mr S. Ibragimov
Ms Z. Khamidova (Advisor on Cultural Affairs)
Mr M. Udugov (Minister of Information)

* Chittagong Hill Tracts
Ms K.C. Roy
Mr Gautam Chakma
Mr Ramendu S. Dewan
Ms T. Greeh

* Crimea
Crimean Tatar National Movement
Mr Tutuncu
Ms Baysu
Ms O. Mutlu

* East Turkestan
East Turkestan Cultural Association
Mr Alptekin
Mr Envargjan

* Estonia
Governmental Coalition
Dr. L. Maell (Vice-Chairman of Estonian National Independence Party)

* Greeks in Albania
Mr M. Tzelios

* Iraqi Turkoman
Iraqi Turkish Culture and Collaboration Association
Mr Suphi Saatci
Ms Ilasim Salini

* Republic of Kosova
Government of Kosova
Dr. I. Rugova (President)
Dr. F. Agani (Vice-President)
Mr Q. Sheji

* Kurdistan
Government of Iraqi Kurdistan
Dr. L. Rashid
Mr K. Fuad
Mr S. Saib

* Latvia
Citizen's Congress of Latvian Republic
Mr G. Vilcans

* Mari
Mari National Congress
Mr K. Sanukov

* The South Moluccas

The Republic of the South Moluccas

Dr. J.A. Manusama (President)	19/21/22 jan.
Ms J. Risamenapatty-Akihary	19/23/24/25 jan.
Mr O. Matulessy	20/21/22 jan.
Dr. J. Wattilete	20/21/23 jan.
Ms F. Sarhuwat-Tomas	23/24/25 jan.
Dr. F. Tutuhatunewa	21/22/23 jan

* Taiwan

Democratic Progressive Party

Ms Hsiu-Lien Annette Lu (Member of Parliament)

* Tatarstan

Government of Tatarstan

Mr V. Likhatchev (Vice-President)

* Tibet

Government of Tibet in Exile/International Campaign for Tibet

Kasur Lodi Gyari (Special Envoy of H.H. The Dalai Lama/ President of the Campaign for Tibet)

Mr Gyaltsen Gyaltag (Representative of H.H. The Dalai Lama)

Mr Dawa Thondup (Representative of H.H. The Dalai Lama)

Mr Tsetan Samdup

* West Papua

West Papuan People's Front

Mr V. Kaisiëpo

Mr M. L. Kafiar

* Zanzibar

Zanzibar Democratic Alternative

Mr Mgeni

Mr H. Magram

OBSERVERS

* Amazonia

(COICA)

Mr V. Grefa (Co-ordinator)

* South Sea Islanders in Australia

Ms N. Enares

Ms T. Leo

* AWARE (India)
  Ms S. Thakur

* Batwa (Rwanda)
  Association for Promotion of Batwa
  Mr C. Uwuragiye

* Bretagne
  Bretonne Democratic Union European Free Alliance
  Mr K. Guyonvare'h

* Burma
  National Coalition Government
  Mr P. Limbin (Foreign Minister)

* Chuvash
  Chuvash National Congress
  Mr A. Khuzangai (President)
  Mr A. Goriounov

* Cree Nation
  Ms S. Venne

* Council of the Frisian Movement
  Mr J. Rinzema

* East Timor
  Mr C.Pinto (member of the National Council of Maubere Resistance)
  Dr. Z. Costa (Chairman of the UDT Regional Committee)

* EMIRON
  Ethnic Minority Rights Organization of Africa
  Mr Ken Saro-Wiwa
  Mr A. Ilenre

* IHRAAM
  International Human Rights Association of American Minorities
  Ms H. Abubakr
  Mr S. M. Abubakr
  Mr V. Mc Davis
  Mr O. Mbenga
  Mr Ted Egans

* Inner Mongolia
  Mr Xiheiming
  Mr Hasbaatar

* Jura
  Mouvement Independantiste Jurassien
  Mr M. Pascal
  Mr J. Raphaël

* Home Land Mission
  Moluccas
  Mr N. Souisa
  Mr B. S. Bernard
  Mr T. Bernard

* Karen
  Ms Shwe Ya Hai

* Karenni State
  Dr Cey-Bert R. Gyula

* Khalistan
  Mr G.S. Aulakh

* Komi
  Komi National Congress
  Mr V. Markov (Chairman)
  Mr V. Kanev

* Kumyk
  Mr S. Aliyev
  Ms S. Alisheva
  Mr M. Adzhiev

* Lado
  State of Lado
  Mr J. B. Agami (Head of State)
  Mr D. P. Muki (Prime Minister)

* Lakota Nation
  Mr R. Grass

* Mapuche
  Ms R. Mariqueo
  Mr R. Mariqueo
  Ms R. Quiroga

* AWARE (India)
  Ms S. Thakur

* Batwa (Rwanda)
  Association for Promotion of Batwa
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  Mr S. M. Abubakr
  Mr V. Mc Davis
  Mr O. Mbenga
  Mr Ted Egans

* Mocovi
Pueblo Mocovi/Centro Mocovi "Ialek Lavia"
Mr A. Araujo
Mr J. M. Iñet

* Mohawk Nation
Kahnawake Territory (Québec /Canada)
Okwaoraken (Mr R. C. LaFrance)

* Nagaland
National Socialist Council of Nagaland
Mr Md. E. Ali (Chairman)
Mr M. Uddin (General Secretary)

* Nigritia
Mr N. S. Shabaka (Mr Jurline Woolen)
Mr M. Brooks
Mr P. Shelby
Mr L. Lewis
Ms D. Buttler
Mr S. Lolton
Ms L. Mokely

* North Ossetia
North Ossetian Research Institute of Humanities
Mr A. Chermenovitch
Mr V. M. Kaitukov
Mr Z. Tskhovrebov

* Ogoni
Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People
Mr Ken Saro-Wiwa

* Roma
International Union of Roma
Stichting Oost Europese Zigeuners
Vereniging ROM
Mr K. Petalo

* Sanjak
Muslim National Council of Sanjak (MNCS)
Mr S. Ugljanin (President)
Ms V. Gusinac (Deputy of the Assembly)
Mr A. Mahmutovic
Mr Z. Colovic
Mr S. Hukic

* Shan People
Shan State Organization (SSO)/Human Rights Foundation (SHRF)
Mr C. Muang Lay
Mr dr. Htun Thein
Mr Sai Myo Win
Ms Nang Nawe Kham

* Sindh
World Council of Sindh
Dr. M. A. Halepota (President)
Mr. R.V.D. Abro
Mr G.H. Raisinghaney

* Shiites in Irak
Al-Khoei Foundation
Mr Y. Alkoei

* South Ossetia
Mr A. R. Chochiev
Ms M. V. Tskhovrebova

* South Tirol
Union for Sud Tirol
Mr A. Benedikter

* Stichting Tamil Co-ordination
Mr P. J. Thevanayagam
Mr M. Thavanayoha

* Tai People
Studies Center
Mr T. T. Baccam
Mr W. Johnson

* Tuareg
(Temoest) UDPS
Mr L. Mochtar

* Turkik Youth Association
Ms Sagdeyeva (Chairperson)

* Udmurt
National Movement "Udmurt Kenesh"
V. Ossipov (Member of Council)

* West-Thrace
  Mr H. H. Oglou
  Mr C. A. Oglou

* World Peace Council (Tanzania)
  Rev. Reward D. Simbeye
  Mr W. M. Masterd
  Mr G. Mwakoba

* Yakutia
  Government of the Sakha Republic
  Mr V. M. Vlassov (Vice Chairman of the Supreme Soviet)
  Mr V. P. Artamonov (Minister of the Foreign Relations)
  Mr A. P. Illarionov (Councellor of the President)

* European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages
  Ms S. Carrel

* 12 Oktober Manifest
  Mr C. N. Mercedes Manchego
  Mr D. Wolff

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND STATUS

* ***General Assembly***

The General Assembly of representatives of all member nations and peoples is held annually. The General Assembly is the highest decision–making organ of UNPO.

* ***Steering Committee***

The Steering Committee consists of five to fifteen Members elected by the General Assembly. It oversees the execution of decisions of the General Assembly.

* ***Secretariat***

The General Secretary is elected by the General Assembly. He/She heads the Secretariat headquarterd at The Hague. Regional Coordination Offices exist in San Francisco (U.S.A) and Tartu (Estonia). Additional offices are planned for Latin America (Costa Rica), Asia, and Africa.

UNPO OFFICES

* ***Office of the General Secretary***
Javastraat 40A / 2585 AP The Hague
mailing address:
Postbox 85878 / 2508 CN The Hague / The Netherlands
Tel: (070) 360 33 18 Fax: (070) 360 33 46

* ***San Francisco Coordination Office***
347 Dolores Street, Suite 206
San Francisco, California 94110, U.S.A.
Tel: (415) 626 0995 Fax: (415) 626 0865

* ***Tartu Coordination Office***
Raekoja Platz 8 / 202400 Tartu / Estonia
Tel: (01434) 3 39 44

HOW TO HELP

Making A Difference

Join an Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Support Group in your country. The group can:

1. **Adopt one or more nations or peoples who are members of UNPO**
2. **Develop activities to increase awareness about the adopted peoples culture and plight**
3. **Host representatives of the adopted member**
4. **Promote activities in support of human rights**
5. **Develop friendship and understanding through correspondence and exchange programs**
6. **Raise funds in support of UNPO activities**

UNPO Needs Your Support

I wish to become a UNPO Supporter

a Support Group Member	**US$***	**25.–**
a Sponsor**	**US$**	**100.–**
I enclose a donation of	**US$**	_____
Total	**US$**	

* or equal amount in other currencies

** Sponsors receive UNPO News, a publication of news and information concerning UNPO and its member nations and peoples

UNPO functions as a NON–PROFIT ORGANIZATION in the Netherlands and the U.S.A.
In the Netherlands Stichting UNPO is established in The Hague
In the U.S.A. UNPO is a non–profit organization with tax deductible 501(c)(3) Status

UNPO

Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization

"UNPO...Hope for a just and tolerant future"

Citation, PRIZE FOR TOLERANCE, 1991

SUMMARY

Throughout the world, many nations and peoples struggle to regain their lost countries, maintain their cultural identity, and establish basic human and economic rights. Some of these groups live under occupation or have been dispossessed of their countries, while others are ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples who exist as second–class citizens in the land of their ancestors. Most of these nations and peoples feel isolated in their struggle and have no international forum in which to be heard.

Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) is an organization of nations and peoples not adequately represented in the international community. It was set up by these nations and peoples themselves to promote their own aspirations through peaceful means. A non–aligned organization dedicated to non–violent programs and solutions, UNPO offers an international forum as well as much needed services for those nations and peoples whose causes and needs are not adequately addressed in existing international bodies.

UNPO believes that by providing professional assistance to its member nations and peoples to promote aspirations in legitimate forums and through nonviolent means, it can reduce the motivation for violence and improve chances of finding solutions. In addition, UNPO provides a community of support for those nations and peoples who have long felt alone in their struggle.

The term "unrepresented nations and peoples" covers a broad spectrum. The term may include occupied countries, federated states, indigenous peoples, ethnic or cultural majorities or minorities, or colonies.

MEMBERSHIP

The UNPO is a rapidly growing organization currently consisting of twenty–six members, representing approximately 50 million people. UNPO's current members are:

Abkhazia, Aboriginals, Acheh, Albanians in Yugoslavia, Armenia, Assyria, Belau, Bougain–ville, Chechenskaya, Chittagong Hill Tracts, Cordillera, Crimea, East Turkestan, Georgia, Greeks in Albania, Iraqi Turkoman, Kurdistan, Mari, South Moluccas, Taiwan, Tataristan, Tibet, West Papua, Zanzibar.

Estonia and Latvia, who recently achieve independence, remain Supporting Members. There are currently 15 Observers, including East Timor, The Lakota Nation, The All Indian Pueblo Council, The International Indian Treaty Council, Komi, Karen, Amazonia, Maasai, Barabaig, Quintin Lame and The Mohawk Nation.

Just as membership in the United Nations does not mean agreement among member states on each other's objectives, policies, or alliances. Participation in UNPO does not signify any form of alliance or common purpose except in the promotion of respect for human rights of all peoples.

It is UNPO's position, supported by international law, that human rights, including the right to self–determination, are not issues exclusively within the domestic jurisdiction of states

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

UNPO provides a range of services for UNPO Members:

★ International Forum ★ Media and Information Services ★ United Nations Representation ★ Training programs in Diplomacy, Non–Violence, and Democracy ★ Conflict Resolution ★ Urgent Action Council ★ Strategic Planning ★ Election/Referendum Monitoring ★ Promotion of Human Rights ★ Cultural Preservation and Promotion ★ Protection of the Natural Environment ★ Research Services ★★

CHARTER PRINCIPLES

UNPO is dedicated to the following principles enshrined in its Charter:

Non–violence
Development and implementation of strategies and policies alternative to violence.

Human Rights
Compliance with internationally accepted Human Rights standards.

Self–Determination and Democracy
The equal right to self–determination of all peoples and the promotion of democracy.

Environmental Protection
The protection of nature and the environment.

Tolerance
UNPO rejects intolerance. It does not advocate one economic or political system over another, and bears no favoritism whatsoever for any religion, ideology, or race.

SUMMARY OF MINUTES
FIRST DAY OF UNPO THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY
19 January 1993

Morning Plenary

Dr. Linnart Maell, General Assembly Chairman opened the Proceedings. "In remembrance of the many victims of our struggle," Dr. Maell requested a moment of silence.

Mr. Patijn, Commissaris of the Province of South Holland (in whose Provinciehuis the assembly is gathered), welcomed the assembly and wished UNPO every success. He specifically mentioned that 1993 is the Year of the Indigenous Peoples and his hope that this will bring new understanding, recognition and respect from the international community of states and their institutions for the rights of "captive nations." And he added that UNPO has an important role to play, bringing attention to new, legitimate avenues of non-violent means to promote peaceful change.

Lodi Gyari, President of the Steering Committee, issued the Committe's report. After a few personal words regarding the positive influence UNPO has exerted on the struggle of Tibetans, he stated that over 30 applications for membership have been received and nine have been unanimously accepted. They are:

Batwa (Rwanda) / Association for Promotion of Batwa
East Timor
Chuvash / Chuvash National Congress
Inkerin
Komi / Komi National Congress
Mapuche Nation
Ogoni / Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People
Sanjak / Muslim National Council of Sanjak (MNCS)
Udmurt / National Movement "Udmurt Kenesh"

10 applications are still under consideration. During the General Assembly, applicants will be met individually by members of the Steering Committee.

The President stated, "I want to make it very clear that not being accepted in no way is a passing of judgment on the people. It only means that they do not meet certain criteria for membership in UNPO. We wish them every success in their struggle."

Four founding members of UNPO have become sovereign nations: Estonia, Latvia, Georgia and Armenia.

There are three vacancies on the Steering Committee, to be filled during the General Assembly: Chairman and two Vice-Chair positions.

Michael van Walt van Praag, General Secretary, welcomed the participants and issued his report. He first mentioned that a number of member delegations were unfortunately missing and would perhaps join the Assembly later in the week. He relayed a number of goodwill messages from the Prime Minister of Estonia, the Vice President of the State Assembly of Estonia, the President of Abkhazia and the Netherlands Minister of Development and Cooperation. He also thanked Mr. Patijn for allowing the Assembly the use of the Provinciehuis.

General Secretary Van Walt briefly described the history of UNPO, explaining that it was specifically created to provide a forum and services for unrepresented nations and peoples. Today there are 35 members. He expressed concern that the organization not grow too fast, rather that it grow steadily to the extent it is able.

He briefly discussed activities of UNPO in the past year, including the Conference on Population Transfer in Tallin in January, a 2-week member diplomacy training course for the Tibetan government in exile in coordination with diplomacy trainers in New South Wales and, in response to members' specific requests regarding the use of force by governments, five missions: Tatarstan, Kosova, Iraq-Kurdistan, Chechnya and Abkhazia. He said that he looks forward to seeing what the declaration of The Year of Indigenous Peoples will actually bring and stressed that it is not declarations that are important, but their content. He said that the role of UNPO is important because understanding a problem is not achieved by statistical analysis, but by listening to the subjective feelings of the people affected. "Only when that happens, can there be a start to recognizing and solving problems in a peaceful way."

The General Secretary then announced the appointment of 5 Assistant Secretaries General:

- For the environment: Victor Kaisiepo (West Papua)
- For relations with the UN and other international organizations
  AND
  For the region of the Americas: Menelaos Tzelios (Greeks in Albania)
- For the Asian Pacific: Helen Corbett (Aboriginals of Australia)
- For Eastern Europe/Northern Asia: Dr. Linnart Maell (Estonia)
- For relations with members and external relations: Tsering Jampa

Linnart Maell resigned Chairman position.

After opening the floor to nominations for a new chairman, Mr. Ertkin Arptekian (East Turkestan) was unanimously nominated and, at the suggestion of Senator John Nimrod, was elected by unanimous acclamation.

Chairman Arptekian, the former Vice Chair of the General Assembly, stated in his acceptance speech: "We have all our own dreams, but as long as we can share one pillow, we can achieve our dreams."

After a break, elections of the two Vice Chairs of the Assembly took place. Mr. Menelaos Tzelios (Greeks in Albania) was nominated by Ms. I. Baysu (Crimea), but he did not accept to avoid double duties. Chairman Arptekian nominated Senator Nimrod (Assyria) and Ken Saro-Wiwa (Ogoni) and both were overwhelmingly elected by those present.

Following formal adoption of the agenda for the Third General Assembly, the situation reports began. Mr. V. Kove (Abkhazia), gave the first report, after which the General Secretary, at the invitation of the Chairman, mentioned that the Report on the Mission to Abkhazia is available to participants in the Assembly at the Documentation Table. He said that the report had already been distributed to governments, the United Nations and other international organizations. After this first situation report, the Chairman requested that subsequent delegations should also suggest what UNPO can do to help their situation.

Helen Corbett (Aboriginals in Australia) then reported, concluding with a number of specific requests for UNPO. They were:

1) to independently monitor the progress of the Aboriginal Reconciliation Council and provide eventual documentation on such;

2) to promote the Aboriginal voice in the international arena;

3) to assist in planning a conference to gather the key Aboriginal groups, in an attempt to work together and with the Australian government; and

4) to assist with research on land issues in Australia.

Mr. Tengku Hasan M. de Tiro (Acheh) next described his nation's situation. After the conclusion of his remarks, in response to the Chairman's direct question to him: "What can the UNPO do?" Mr. de Tiro said, "They have already done something very important. We are heard now."

Afternoon Plenary

Senator John Nimrod (Assyria) had two requests of UNPO -- to communicate, through the media, who the Assyrians are and to continue to further their concerns, aims and goals through the UNPO platforms. Mr. C. Uwuragiye (Batwa) asked that UNPO help in an initiative to educate the people of Batwa of their human rights.

Mr. Mike Forster (Bougainville) asked that UNPO establish direct communication with the government of Papua/New Guinea to allow for a mission to take place and he suggested that UNPO consider international radio communication services, such as Voice of America. Ms. I. Baysu (Crimea) followed, asking that UNPO formally protest the destruction of new Crimean housing to the Ukranian and Russian governments. Mr. Envarigjan (East Turkestan) then requested that UNPO send a fact-finding mission to his region and, also, that UNPO accept a young Turkestani for a training internship in the U.S.

Mr. C. Pinto (East Timor) asked that UNPO exert pressure on the government of Jakarta, Indonesia, to remove the forces from East Timor and to allow its people to achieve self-determination.

The Chairman then requested a change in the agenda, to move away from the situation reports, for the moment, and go on to other business. He gave the floor to the General Secretary to provide a brief description of UNPO's activities.

The General Secretary began by suggesting that the members consider the activities he would discuss and then set priorities during the General Assembly for the year ahead.

Urgent Action Council: Guidelines have been drawn up for the Council that was recommended during last year's Assembly and composition is hoped to be complete this year. Missions, such as the one to Abkhazia, are acting as the Council in an ad hoc form.

Human Rights Yearbook: Instead of a single yearbook, it was decided to occasionally release reports on individual members. Kosova and Cordillera will soon be released. It is asked that members keep the Secretariat Office informed of updates in their country and that they suggest appropriate timing for the release of their report.

Internship Program: The workshops on Thursday are designed to give you a brief idea of what the possibilities of training sessions are. It is hoped that you will make specific suggestions for future training sessions during the plenary session on Sunday. Also, UNPO hopes to establish internships for individuals sent by members to work in the Secretariat Office in the Hague or

perhaps some other international organization. Most importantly, the General Secretary pointed out that fundraising is only possible if an actual individual has been chosen to participate, so please suggest.

UNPO NEWS: One issue has been published; it is hoped that it will be published quarterly in the future. Now appears in English, hope to publish it in Russian and then Spanish in the future. Articles are about members and items that concern members. Timely information is always needed, so please do keep Secretariat

Office informed. The newsletter also allows for the creation of the "Friends of UNPO," a group which provides financial support to UNPO through its membership. For a U.S.$30 membership fee, people will receive a subscription to UNPO NEWS, allowing for even more individuals to learn about the organization's members and activities.

Information and Press Center: Distributes information to organizations requested by the members; so far, this has been mainly to the press. The Center is in working order and is establishing contacts with the press. There has been some success in the papers and wire services. Please try to establish some means of communication with the General Secretariat Offices during this General Assembly.

At this point, the floor was opened for comments from the Assembly. Mike Forster (Bougainville) reported that his delegation has had some success with computer conferences (particularly Pegasus, Green Net) and suggested that UNPO consider this means of cheap communication (0.15 per letter) and international posting of messages. General Secretary addressed the suggestion to Julie Berriault (UNPO San Francisco office), who has been working on such a project which is still in very preliminary stages. Victor Kaisiepo pointed out the maintenance of security on such a system.

Dr. Ghurimot (Khalistan) then took the floor, expressing his displeasure of having the Khalistan membership rejected. He said that UNPO cannot worry about expanding too quickly, but should rather accept many more members. Vice Chairman Senator Nimrod stated that it was not the intention of the organization to limit membership, but "everything must be done with some structure."

Finally, Mr. R. Grass (Lakota Nation) stated that he feels the need for better communication between observer nations and UNPO.

Christa Meindersma next conducted a briefing for the Assembly on population transfer. Ms. Meindersman is currently working with the United Nations Sub-Commission Special Rapporteurs on a 3-year study of dispacement of people and the building-up of settlements in territories. She said that UNPO can make sure that this study does not simply become an academic exercise.

Individual situation reports then resumed. The final report of the day was by Dr. Maell (Estonia), the former Chairman. He stressed the importance of countries that have achieved their independence, such as Estonia, in helping the struggle of those that have not.

One announcement was made by Victor Kaisiepo, requesting that all members who had signed up last year for the Commission on Terrorism and Violence contact him as soon as possible, to arrange a week-long conference.

A question was then raised from the floor (Mr. A.R. Chochiev from South Ossetia), regarding the legitimate representation of Estonia. The Chair requested that the response wait until tomorrow morning.

END OF SESSION